

## City Community Block Grant

## CITY OF SUSANVILLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

**Response Requested:** No

**Findings:** The City of Susanville has for some years opened a very successful CDBG program that has improved the City and the living conditions of citizens qualified to participate. Information provided to the Grand Jury by the City Administrator's office provided details of the program. Booklets and pamphlets describing the program were attractive and fully described the details of the Housing Rehabilitation, Natural Gas Conversion and weatherization grants and loan programs.

City of Susanville applications for funding for the programs are listed as follows:

1. Housing Rehabilitation Block Grant # 99-STBG-1385 - in the amount of \$500,000, closed in March 2002 assisted 68 households with low interest loans and grants to correct health and safety conditions and promote efficient use of energy for the target income group individuals (those earning less than 80% of the Lassen County median income, adjusted by family size).
2. Housing Rehabilitation Block Grant # 01-STBG-1663 - in the amount of \$300,000, awarded in June 2002 assisted 54 target income group households with natural gas conversions and the purchase of new natural gas appliances.
3. Housing Rehabilitation Block Grant # 03-STBG-1851 - in the amount of \$300,000, awarded in August 2003 will assist approximately 50 households with natural gas conversions and the purchase of new natural gas appliances.
4. First Time Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance and Housing Rehabilitation #98-HOME-0291 - in the amount of \$500,000 provided down payment assistance to 13 households, bringing them the joy and responsibility of home ownership. This grant also provided for minor housing rehabilitation as part of the down payment assistance. The City loans are approximately \$20,000 and are deferred for the life of the First Trust Deed which is usually 30 years. The program participants are not required to make monthly payments. However, if the property is sold, the City's loan becomes due and payable.
5. First Time Home Buyer Self-Help, New Construction #01-HOME-0536 - in the amount of \$750,000 to purchase 34 developed parcels for first time home buyer project. Participants must contribute sweat equity by working 30 hours per week in the construction of their home. The hours may be comprised of all family members and friends. Clusters of five to seven homes are built at one time. The City's land purchase funds are then rolled over into mortgage subsidy financing in the way of a silent second. This is known as the Maurino Manor subdivision, south of Diamond View School on Richmond Road. The first five families have moved into their new homes. Approximately 8 lots remain available for income qualified families.

6. Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance #00-EDBG-735 in the amount of \$35,000 paid to conduct a commercial building facade and street scape revitalization plan for Historic Uptown Susanville. The study is complete and recommendations have been made to the various merchants.
7. Economic Development Planning and Technical Assistance #01-EDBG-777 in the amount of \$35,000 paid to establish an economic development strategic plan for the City of Susanville. The plan is complete.
8. General Allocation Planning and Technical Assistance #02-STBG-1793 in the amount of \$35,000 paid to update the City's housing element of its General Plan. That plan is complete and the housing element update has been accepted by the State of California.
9. Housing Rehabilitation Grant 04- The City just this week received notification that it was successful in its 2004 application to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for a \$500,000 housing rehabilitation award. The focus is to provide funding to renovate and upgrade four low-income tenant occupied properties to provide safe, decent and affordable housing for the target income group. The program will provide low interest loans to owner investors in the amount of \$75,000, in combination with a \$5,000 grant. The owner-investor must enter into a five-year rent limitation agreement.
10. Revolving Loan Funds - The City has approximately 30 active loan files representing more than \$500,000. The housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund finances rehabilitation activities and studies that will support future grant applications. The economic development revolving loan fund is currently receiving payments from two loans made to local businesses that have created or retained jobs for target income group individuals.